

Remarks

Applicant sincerely extends his thanks to the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview on June 4, 2004.

In the interview, the Examiner was satisfied with applicant's previous response to the Requirements for Information under 37 C.F.R. 1.105. In addition, the Examiner agreed that the rejections in the Final Office Action did not adequately address the claimed invention represented by claims 31 and 50, together with their dependent claims. The Examiner urged applicant to bring up such an oversight in this response.

In any event, claims 21-29, 31-39 and 41-58 have been cancelled, without prejudice. New claims 60-98 have been added.

The invention is directed to a technique for accessing entertainment programs (e.g., radio programs) from different sources (e.g., radio stations) in a vehicle. The entertainment programs are classified in categories, e.g., country, rock and classical music, based on their content. Auxiliary data concerning the categories of the entertainment programs may be provided by the sources, along with the entertainment programs. In accordance with the invention, those sources whose signals are within the receiving range of the vehicle are identified, e.g., by a frequency scanner. Indicators representing the identified sources are associated with program categories based on the auxiliary data. For a given category, a collection of the indicators associated with the category are displayed, thereby facilitating selection of a source represented by an indicator in the collection to receive an entertainment program classified in the given category. *See* page 42, line 14 et seq. of the specification, Fig. 18.

The claimed invention represented by claims 60-98 is patentable over Lee in view of Logan, which references were cited by the Examiner.

Lee discloses an audio system which uses a visual display screen (denoted 14 in Fig. 1) for manually setting programs to record preselected broadcasts such as latest traffic information, weather forecasts, financial reports, sports, and news in advance. A

user of the Lee system may set up to eight recording programs, indicated by program numbers (denoted 15) on the display screen 14. For each recording program, the user sets a program recording time, e.g., 07:08 AM (denoted 22 on screen 14); channel frequency preselected by the user, e.g., 950 KHz (denoted 18 on screen 14); recording length, e.g., 3 minutes (denoted 25 on screen 14); recording cycle time, e.g., repeating recording every ten minutes (denoted 26 on screen 14); and recording cycle value, e.g., repeating 6 times in total (denoted 27 on screen 14). *See* column 3, line 38 et. seq. of Lee. In addition, the user may categorize the recording programs to record broadcasts of different categories such as financial reports, sports, and news (denoted 30 on screen 14). To that end, the user may push a program-category input button, e.g., traffic/weather button 31, \$ button 32, sports button 33 or news button 34, in setting each program. Once programmed, the Lee system performs the recording of the preselected radio broadcasts regardless of whether the system is on or off. *See* column 5, line 22 et seq. of Lee.

At the outset, Lee does not even apply to the claimed invention as the Lee system is a programmable recorder for recording audio broadcasts at channel frequencies preselected by the user, where the audio broadcasts are manually categorized by the user into different program categories. On the other hand, for example, base claims 60 and 80 recite “selection of a remote source ... to receive an entertainment program, which is classified in the at least one category and currently provided by the remote source,” as opposed to making a selection to listen to a classified, recorded entertainment program previously provided by a radio broadcast as in Lee. Similarly, base claims 70 and 90 recite “the option being selectable to receive the entertainment program [in a selected category] currently provided by the at least one source.”

In addition, nowhere does Lee teach or suggest presenting on a display “at least one category, together with a collection of one or more indicators in association with the at least one category, wherein ... the association is determined based on the data” concerning categories of entertainment programs which is received by the receiver from

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remote sources, as base claims 60 and 80 also recite. By contrast, in Lee a user manually categorizes the recording programs and does not utilize any such data as in the claimed invention.

Moreover, nowhere does Lee teach or suggest “determining a plurality of sources which currently provide signals receivable by the receiver,” as base claims 70 and 90 also recite. By contrast, in Lee a user records audio broadcasts at channel frequencies preselected by the user, without regard for the receiving range of the vehicle.

Nor does Logan teach or suggest the above-quoted limitations.

Logan discloses a technique for using an audio program player or a playback unit to reproduce audio program segments downloaded from a server through the Internet. As stated in the previous response, nowhere does Logan or Lee teach or suggest an incorporation of the Logan technique into the Lee system as postulated by the Examiner. Moreover, an “object” of the Logan technique is:

to provide easy access to rich selection of audio programming
and to allow the listener to dynamically and interactively locate
and select desired programming from the available collection in
an easy and intuitive way without the need of a visual display screen

Column 1, line 64 - col. 2, line 2 of Logan (emphasis added). However, as discussed above the Lee system significantly relies on use of a visual display screen (14) to facilitate setting programs to record preselected broadcasts, which belies the object of the Logan technique to avoid “the need of a visual display screen.” As such, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the Logan technique into the Lee system as postulated by the Examiner. In fact, in view of the stated object of the Logan technique, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been dissuaded from consideration of Logan in combination with Lee. This being so, the Examiner’s obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

In addition, because of its stated object to avoid “the need of a visual display screen,” the Logan technique teaches away from the claimed invention which calls for,

among others, presenting on “a display” at least one category of entertainment program, together with a collection of one or more indicators in association with the at least one category for selection, as claims 60 and 80 recite. Similarly, claims 70 and 90 recite, among others, providing on “a display” a selected category, together with at least one option associated with a source which provides an entertainment program classified in the selected category, the option being selectable to receive the entertainment program from the source associated therewith.

Further, according to the Logan technique, without use of a visual display screen,

the player subsystem includes a control mechanism responsive to commands received from a listener to dynamically alter the sequence and content of the programming material actually presented. More specifically, the player may advantageously incorporate means for skipping the remaining content of any program being played at any time, or returning to the beginning of a particular subject to replay its content. Each given program segment is preferably preceded by a topic description segment, and the program skipping mechanism [in] the player is preferably adapted to automatically skip to the next topic description, bypassing the intervening program content, whenever a skip command is receive[d] when a topic description is being played. Similarly, related topics (program segments) are sequentially grouped together by subject category ... In this way, the listener can rapidly skim through subject categories [being audio-played to the listener], one at a time, until a desired subject is reached, and then allow the player to play topic descriptions one at a time until a desired topic (program segment) is reached.

Column 2, line 55 et seq. of Logan (emphasis added). Such a serial audio presentation of the subject categories, one at a time, followed by another serial audio presentation of topic descriptions (or program segments), one at a time, in Logan belies the claimed invention which requires presenting, on “a display,” at least one category “together with” a collection of one or more indicators associated with the at least one category, as claims 60 and 80 recite; or presenting, on “a display,” a selected category “together with” at least one option associated with a source which provides an entertainment program classified

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in the selected category, as claims 70 and 90 recite.

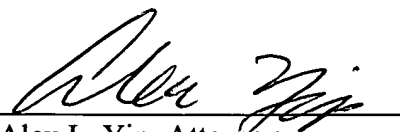
In the Office Action, the Examiner mistook the “indicators” in the claimed invention (e.g., denoted 1273, 1277, etc. in Fig. 18) for “an indication of the duration of programming remaining to be played,” which programming has already been selected. *See* page 7 et seq. of the Office Action. Rather, the collection of indicators, as specified in claims 60 and 80, “represent one or more of the remote sources currently providing entertainment programs receivable by the receiver,” and thereby facilitate “selection of a remote source represented by an indicator in the collection to receive an entertainment program, which is classified in the at least one category and currently provided by the remote source.”

For the reasons stated above, claims 60, 70, 80 and 90, together with their dependent claims, are patentable over Lee in view of Logan.

In view of the foregoing, each of claims 60-98, as added, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, consideration of these claims is requested and allowance of the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully,

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